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Applicants: Moon et al. Art Unit: 2623 JAN 23 2006

Serial Number: 10/081,417 Examiner: Mackowey, A

Filing Date: 2/22/2002 Docket No.: CHA920010020US1 (IBMC-0034)

Title: MICR-BASED OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION SYSTEM AND METHOD

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

DESTINATION FACSIMILE NUMBER: 571-273-8300

Transmitted herewith is: Interview Summary (3 pgs.)

in the above identified application.

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January 23, 2006

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Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Interview Summary dated 12/21/05, Applicants respond as follows:

A telephonic interview was held on 12/01/05. During the interview:

1. Applicants had a discussion with the Examiner regarding claims 1 and 4-5.

Specifically, Applicants submitted that "converting the character data to a Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) format from a non-MICR format" as claimed in the present invention (e.g., claim 1) includes not only a conversion from a grey scale format to a black and white format, but also scaling the character data to achieve the MICR format. Applicants submitted that the feature of scaling is inherently included in the claim language of, e.g., claim 1 because a scaling is necessary for the claimed converting. Applicants also submitted that a MICR format in the claimed invention is defined as having the equivalent specifications of data

Serial No. 10/081,417

Page 1 of 3

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obtained by a multigap MICR read head, i.e., being black and white and having equivalent spatial resolution and density as if captured by a multigap MICR read head. Applicants cited page 5, last paragraph and page 6, first and second full paragraphs of the specification and FIG. 1 to support the above arguments. During the discussion, Applicants agreed to amend claim 1 to more clearly claim the scaling feature.

Applicants also submitted that the cited references, specifically Higgins et al., do not disclose or suggest the features of claims 4-5. The Examiner agreed and suggested that Applicants amend the independent claims.

2. The Examiner mainly relied on Higgins et al. (USPN 5, 091,968) to respond to Applicants' arguments. Higgins et al. disclose conversion from a grey-scale format to a binary format. However, Higgins et al. do not disclose or suggests scaling the data to obtain a MICR format as claimed in the current invention. Applicants agreed to amend independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 21 to more clearly claim the scaling feature to overcome the cited prior art including Higgins et al.

The amendments to the claims are represented in the Preliminary Amendment filed with the Request for Continued Examination dated 1/4/06.

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Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael F. Hoffman
Reg. No. 40,019

Date: 1/23/06

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Serial No. 10/081,417

Page 3 of 3